(b) if so, the details of steps undertaken, so far; and

(c) the present status of cultivable lands in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Ministry of Environment and Forests is implementing National Afforestation Programme (NAP) Scheme for regeneration of degraded forests and adjoining lands and to *inter-alia* augment biomass resource on such lands. The scheme is being implemented through a two-tier decentralized mechanism of Forest Development Agency (FDA) at Forest Division level and Joint Forest Management Committee (JFMCs) at village level.

(b) 729 FDA projects have been approved so far in 28 States to cover a project area of 9.36 lakh hectares through 24,215 JFMCs.

(c) As per "Agricultural Statistics At A Glance 2003", published by Ministry of Agriculture, the net sown area of the country was 141.23 million hectares in 199.9-2000.

Protection of wildlife

3258. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that peacocks and other birds are being driven away from farms and villages due to fear of wildlife laws;

(b) whether it is also a fact that wildlife activities cannot give protection to peacocks, etc. by rearing them and protecting them;

(c) what steps would be taken to evolve a policy to allow licensed and registered applicants to rear peacocks and treat them as pets; and

(d) the steps proposed to encourage people to protect wildlife?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) There are no reports of peacocks and other birds being driven away from farms and villages due to fear of wildlife laws.

(b) Peacock is inducted in Schedute-l of the wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and enjoys highest degree of protection under the provision of the Act Under the Act peacocks cannot be kept as a pet bird.

(c) Recognized zoos may be considered for *ex~$0u* breeding of the peacocks.

(d) Steps taken to encourage people to protect wtld&fe are as follows:

I. The Ministry has instituted Rajiv Gandhi Wildlife Conservation Award and Amrita Devi Bishnoi Wildlife Protection Award to encourage people to protect wildlife in the country.

II. Wide publicity is given through media on the importance of wildlife conservation a; d provision of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

III. Financial assistance is provided to mitigate man animal conflict.

Tasicba-Aodheri Tiger Reserve

3259. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
DR. ABHISHEK MANUSMGHV1:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AMD FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tadoba-Andheri Tiger Reserve comprising Tadoba National Park and Andheri Sanctaury, notified during 1'995, facing problems relating to resettlement of 6 villages in the Tiger Reserve area and 59 other villages situated on the periphery with a population of 61,644 humans and equal number of cattle,

(b) if so, whether the funds allocated by Government towards the implementation of this scheme, lc>ng back, have either not been utilized or partially utilized; and

(c) If so, who is responsible for this state of affairs and whether any monrtoring organization exists which periodically takes stock of the iitpterweiita8e>o and setting time-bound implementatton?

THE MINISTER OF STATE *m* THE MINISTRY OP ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (3) and f^Tata
Andheri Tiger Reserve com prises of Tadoba National Park and Andheri